

## MAYOR PEREZ PART OF NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

## NATIONAL HOUSING ADVISORY COUNCIL ADDRESSING CURRENT HOUSING MARKET CRISIS

## ---NEWS ADVISORY---

Mayor Eddie A. Perez continues to search for new and innovative ways to help Hartford residents become new homeowners and also help local families stay in their current homes as the nation is in the midst of a housing market crisis.

He will be traveling to Washington D.C. on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, to take part in the Fannie Mae National Housing Advisory Council. During this two-day event, current market trends and conditions will be analyzed and participants will also learn from industry experts what potential solutions are available. Some of those experts include The Honorable Shelia Bair, Chairman, FDIC and The Honorable Robert Steel, Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, U.S. Department of Treasury.

According to published statistics, Hartford is faring better than other Connecticut cities in regards to foreclosures. Hartford has 355 homes in pre-foreclosure, as compared to Bridgeport, which has 799 and New Haven, which has 543.

In his State of the City Address on March 10<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Perez announced how Hartford is already working with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston on a brand new program that is helping those with subprime loans to refinance.

In that same speech, the Mayor also announced an important new initiative called "Worker Housing" that would add additional moderate-income units to the housing stock, located adjacent to major employers, and make it available to entry-level employees. This will help recruit and grow Connecticut's workforce, especially in the financial sector. Mayor Perez has already requested \$2 million in Federal aid to be used for this effort.

For more information on the Mayor's role, please contact Sarah Barr, Director of Communications, at (860) 550-3174 (cell).